

From: [Assunto, Carmen](#)
To: [Gray, David](#)
Subject: ACTION - FW: LGAC R6 Candidates-NEED YOUR INPUT
Date: Thursday, October 5, 2017 10:04:40 AM

Hi, David. HQ Fran has asked us to provide quick feedback on these potential LGAC members. Of the new ones, only one is our recommendation (Homer Nicholson), and he is listed as an alternate. Two others we nominated are not on list, Mike Eastland and Danny Nevarez, FYI. Please let me know if you have any issues with these nominees. Carmen

Here are the bios of the potential members:

The Honorable Ben Kimbro *(Elected-R)*

City Council

Tulsa, OK

Population: 403,090

Nominated by: Ken Wagner-EPA Regional Operations

Ben Kimbro is a native of Tulsa and has been a District 9 resident for most of his life. Councilor Kimbro was elected for his first term of public service in 2016 but has always been committed to the service of his community. He is proud to have studied at Booker T. Washington High School and The University of Tulsa. He is the Senior Director of Special Projects for Ross Group, a Tulsa-based Construction, Engineering and Development company. In that role, he is responsible for serving special operations forces and special enforcement and intelligence services with design, building and general contracting needs. He drives Ross Group growth-fostering relationships, leading to expansion in domestic and international markets. A believer in relationships, Councilor Kimbro has conducted business on six continents, where he maintains close personal friendships with leaders of business, industry and government that will benefit the economic growth of Tulsa. He volunteers as a teacher and serves on the Board of Directors for Junior Achievement and Leadership Oklahoma, where he is a Class XXVIII graduate. He is an appointed member of the Governor's Unmanned Systems Council and participates in an advisory role with the National Tactical Officers Association, which honored him with the Spirit of the NTOA award in 2015.

The Honorable Jeff Branick *(Elected-R)*

County Judge

Jefferson County, TX

Population: 254,308

Nominated by: NACo

Jeff Branick is the judge for the Jefferson County Court, elected in 2010. He was re-elected after running unopposed on November 4, 2014, for a term 2015-2018. He switched political party affiliation to Republican citing a variety of reasons. Regulatory burden which caused delays for approval of a billion-dollar, job-creating project was among them. He began working with the Provost & Umphrey law firm in 1979 while he attended law school. He is board certified in personal injury trial law by the Texas Board of Legal Specialization. He opened up a neighborhood law practice where he primarily did pro bono work. In January, 2007 he accepted the position of attorney to the County Judge and has been involved in all aspects of county government. Branick has been involved in numerous civic, social and faith-based organizations serving as officer, board member and legal counsel. These include: Texas Air Quality Research Council Advisory Board, East Texas Regional Water Planning Group, Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District, Commissioner of The Texas State Commission on National and Community Service, Port Cities Rescue Mission Ministries Board (president), YMCA Port Arthur board, president, and other offices. He is also legal counsel to Southeast Texas Regional Planning Commission, Leadership Southeast Texas, Red Cross board, Boy Scout fundraiser chairman, leader and board member of Young Life Ministries, a high school Christian outreach, and many other church and charitable boards. He is the author of several published legal articles and treatises. His awards in the last two years include the Chris Quinn community service award and the Port Arthur YMCA volunteer of the year award. He is a member of the board of the Southeast Texas Government Employees Benefits Pool and has been the president of the Jefferson County Housing Finance Corporation for many years. He is a member of the United Methodist Temple in Port Arthur where he has served as lay leader, family life coordinator, chairman of Staff-Parish Relations, and as

guest pastor on several occasions during pastor's vacations. His reason for wanting to serve on the LGAC is primarily because his county is an oil and petrochemical refining area with the largest refinery in the U.S. and three other major refineries and thirty-two chemical plants. His county produces 10% of the gasoline in the U.S., 20% of the diesel, 50% of its commercial aviation fuel and 70% of its military aviation fuel. And the county has the number 1 military off-load port in the world. In his law practice he covered for 25 years the handling of primarily toxic tort litigation. He is an avid outdoorsman and he also serves on the State of Texas Air Quality Research Council Advisory Board, and on the Gulf Coastal Resiliency Board. He was awarded the Ducks Unlimited 2017 Wetlands Conservation Achievement Award for his work on coastal conservation issues. He studied at Lamar University in public affairs and then attended the University of Texas School of Law and the Baylor University School of Law where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1984.

The Honorable Dennis Scott (*Elected-R*)

Councilman

Calcasieu Parrish, LA

Population: 198,788

Nominated by: NACo

Dennis Scott is serving his third term as District 6 Police Juror. As a local businessman, he is the owner of Scout Metal Construction, Inc. and Airport Storage Center, Inc. Dennis, originally from Sulphur, has resided in Lake Charles for over 21 years. He is a veteran of the U.S. Army Infantry and LA Army National Guard. He is an active member of the Church of the King-LC where he serves as Director of Children's Ministries. He enjoys mentoring and teaching young people, family time, and an occasional game of golf. Dennis has served on Louisiana Parishes Against Coastal Erosion as president in 2015 and is now in his second term as vice president. He is a committee member of NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use Steering Committee and NACo's Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus where he is an immediate past president. He is past president, vice president and executive board member for the Imperial Calcasieu Regional Planning and Development Commission which represents a five parish area as the regional economic development office for Southwest Louisiana. Mr. Scott represents District 6, which includes the City of Lake Charles area and portions of Ward 3. Scott also served on President Obama's National Ocean Council Governance Coordinating Committee.

The Honorable Ron Peters (*Elected-R*)

Commissioner

Tulsa County, OK

Population: 639, 242

Nominated by: NACo

Ron Peters has served as a county commissioner for the past four years. He has worked closely with the Indian Nation's Council of Governments to address many environmental issues, including ozone compliance efforts. Peters currently serves on NACo's Environment, Energy and Land Use (EELU) Steering Committee and chairs EELU's Energy Subcommittee. Peters previously chaired EELU's Air Quality Subcommittee prior to being elected commissioner, he served as a member of Oklahoma's House of Representatives District 70 for 12 years. While serving in the Oklahoma House, Peters chaired the Energy and Environment Committee. Prior to his public service work, Peters worked in the private sector included serving as a fortune 500 Company's Director of Government and Public Affairs. This included overseeing community relations and government relations. Ron was a co-owner and President of a local public relations firm, RelationsInc., and as such, understands the importance of small business and free enterprise to our state. Prior to opening RelationsInc., Ron worked over 30 years in the oil and gas business. The vast majority of that time for Cities Service and Occidental Oil and Gas Companies. During his tenure at Oxy, Ron directed their Government and Public Affairs effort. In these capacities he has worked closely with Administrator Scott Pruitt. He also worked directly with U.S. EPA Headquarters staff in DC, as well as with numerous meetings with regional offices on environmental regulations, superfund sites, etc. His public service and work with local non-profits has resulted in special recognition from the Oklahoma District Attorney's Association, Tulsa's Community Service Council, Domestic Violence Intervention Services, Tulsa Community College, Rogers State University, Parent Child Center of Tulsa, American Red Cross and the Oklahoma Partnership for School Readiness. Peters believes that these experiences will serve the LGAC well on the impact of current and pending EPA regulations on both local governments and private

sector companies. He received both his Bachelor's in Business Administration and Certificate of Management degrees from the University of Tulsa.

Homer L. Nicholson (*Elected-R*)

Mayor

Ponca, OK

Population: 24,527

Nominated by: Region 6

Homer Nicholson is the only Mayor in Ponca City who has been reelected for a third three-year term and he is the first Mayor to ever be unopposed, which has happened twice. He is past president of the Oklahoma Municipal League. Nicholson feels the biggest challenges facing Oklahoma Communities are revenue and unfavorable legislation from Federal and State lawmakers. He is very proud of the accomplishments he has seen his town achieve since becoming Mayor of a new \$25 million YMCA and the new bridge over Lake Ponca replacing a WPA bridge, completing a Comprehensive Master Plan that had not been done in the past 25 years, and also our new Housing Incentive Program. Before becoming Mayor, Homer retired from a 38-year career in Geophysics with Conoco, and he is currently in his 22nd year as owner of Nicholson Auction and Real Estate. He also served 35 years in the US Army Reserves retiring as a Command Sergeant Major. He serves on the Board of Directors of the Oklahoma Municipal Power Authority, provider of power to Ponca City and 38 other cities in Oklahoma. He was appointed by Governor Brad Henry on the Governor's Council for Workforce Development and appointed by Governor Frank Keating to the North Central Oklahoma Workforce Investment Board. Those continuing efforts showed fruits with the recent announcement of 350 new jobs in Ponca City at a re-opened food processing center. He was presented the Meritorious Service Award for outstanding contributions to local governments today by the Municipal Electric Systems of Oklahoma (MESO). He has endorsed further green initiatives such as the Recycling Center's enhancements and increased public educations and promotion of Sustainable Alternative Green Energy for North Central Oklahoma. His "Keep Ponca City Beautiful" initiative enhanced code enforcement and resulted in the removal of 84 dilapidated structures. His word to elected officials carries the weight of trust. The folks of Ponca City and other MESO communities are benefitted by those efforts and we are proud to present him with our highest honor. MESO is a trade association of 105 Oklahoma communities who provide electricity and natural gas distribution services to 400,000 Oklahomans.

From: Eargle, Frances

Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2017 9:03 AM

To: Assunto, Carmen <Assunto.Carmen@epa.gov>

Cc: Bowles, Jack <Bowles.Jack@epa.gov>; Matthews, Demond <matthews.demond@epa.gov>

Subject: LGAC R6 Candidates-NEED YOUR INPUT

Hi Carmen,

I hope you are OK from the impacts of Harvey. I cannot imagine what it's like there with this epic storm. Just hoping you and family were spared from the worse. However, I know work life must also be consuming in responding to recovery efforts.

But I did want to give you an update: We have completed the scoring and ranking process of 2017 LGAC Nominees. We would like to get R6's input before moving forward.

A briefing is scheduled next week with OCIR Senior managers on the final slate of candidates.

PLEASE HOLD CLOSE. Here is the suggested line-up for Region 6 (see below).

On the left, you'll see what we are proposing for the LGAC, and on the right for the Subcommittee on Small Communities.

We would like to get your feedback before moving forward asap.

Thanks as always for your great help in getting a great slate of candidates!

Just know that we continue to think about you and hoping all goes well!

Fran Eargle

202-564-3115

Region 6

Current Members – Not Expiring (2)

- Dr. Hector Gonzalez, M.D. Director of City Health Department, Laredo, TX (*Appointed*)
- Mark Stodola, Mayor, Little Rock, AR (*Elected-D*)

Reappointments (1)

- Jeff Witte, Commissioner, NM Dept. of Agriculture (*Appointed*) (*Rank=39.5*) Recommended by NASDA

New Appointments (2)

- Jeff Branick, County Judge, Jefferson County, TX (*Elected-R*) (*Rank=41.6*) Recommended by NACo
- Ron Peters, Commissioner, Tulsa County, OK (*Elected-R*) (*Rank = 40.5*) Recommended by NACo

Alternates

- Homer L. Nicholson, Mayor, Ponca, OK (*Elected-R*) (*Rank=38.6*) Recommended by R6
- Benjamin W. Kimbro, Tulsa, OK (*Elected-R*) (*Rank=36.1*) Recommended by Tate Bennett

SCAS

New Appointment(s) (1)

- Dennis Scott, Commissioner, Calcasieu Parish, LA (*Elected-?*) Recommended by NACo

Thank You Letter(s)

- Norm Archibald, Mayor (former), Abilene, TX (*Elected-R*)